ISI Activities in Leh and Kargil

*45. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that ISI has been spreading militancy to the peaceful districts of Leh and Kargil of Jammu and Kashmir as reported in the 'Statesman' dated 23rd June, 2002;

(b) if so, whether Government have chalked out any schemes to crush the nefarious designs of ISI in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether the State Government have been alerted/sounded in this regard; and

(d) if so, the manner in which such activities of ISI would be controlled ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) Inputs suggest that Pak ISI has been making unsuccessful attempts for quite some time to spread militancy in Leh and Kargil areas.

(b) to (d) Government has adopted a well-coordinated and multi-pronged approach for tackling the activities of ISI which includes strengthening the border management, galvanizing the intelligence machinery, neutralizing plans of ISI by well coordinated intelligence based operations, setting up of out-posts of Security Forces in vulnerable areas and modernization and up-gradation of police and security forces with advance sophisticated weapons and communication system etc.

Central Government has also been sensitizing the State Governments about the threat perception and activities of ISI in the country. Periodic coordination meetings are held with the State Governments for sharing the inputs from various quarters as well as for devising strategies to counter such activities. Various security agencies belonging to the Union and the States have been working together to check the activities of ISI. A drive has been launched to squeeze the financial channels of the terrorists and many hawala groups have been busted. As a result of a coordinated action, a number of Pakistan-backed modules have been neutralized.

At the diplomatic level, Government has used every opportunity to apprise the international community of Pakistan's support to and sponsorship of cross border terrorism in India. The International community widely supports India's view that there can be no justification for terrorism, which must be eradicated wherever it exists.